

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AID-20 CU-04 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-12 RSR-01 /091 W

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R 122345Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2792

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4976

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, EAID, AR

SUBJECT: AIFLD PROGRAM SUSPENSION

REF BA 4576

1. SUMMARY. SITUATION REMAINS UNCHANGED. AIFLD/A PROGRAMS WILL CONTINUE SUSPENDED UNTIL SUCH TIME AS HIGHLY SENSITIVE POLITICAL AMBIENT IN LABOR SECTOR CLARIFIES (SEE REFTTEL). MISSION IS NOT RPT NOT OPTIMISTIC OVER POSSIBILITY OF RESUMING PROGRAMS ON MORE THAN TEN BASIS IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. MISSION NOW RECOMMENDS THAT DECISION ON FUTURE LABOR PROGRAMS IN ARGENTINA BE POSTPONED AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY DEPARTMENT (SEE STATE 105927) PENDING MISSION REVIEW OF SITUATION IN THREE OR FOUR MONTHS. END SUMMARY

2. AIFLD/A HAS COMPLIED WITH PROVISION OF PHASE-OUT PROGRAM CALLING FOR REDUCTION IN FORCE OF TWO EMPLOYEES. DURING SUSPENSION PERIOD THE REMAINING AIFLD/A STAFF CONSISTING OF US DIRECTOR AND SIX EMPLOYEES ARE OCCUPIED AS FOLLOWS: SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIAT (ITS) PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE STILL BEING CARRIED OUT ALBEIT AT REDUCED LEVELS; PERFORMING PRELIMINARY RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION ON ESTABLISHMENT
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OF LABOR INFORMATION PROGRAM AND COMPILING BOOKS AND MATERIALS IN

COLLABORATION WITH EMBASSY, USIS AND USAID; ARRANGING TRAVEL GRANTS FOR SECRETARIAT AND ORIT PARTICIPANTS IN THIRD COUNTRY AND US PROGRAMS. MISSION IS SEEKING TO AVOID CREATING IMPRESSION THAT US LABOR PRESENCE HAS BEEN PRECIPITOUSLY WITHDRAWN DURING SUSPENSION PERIOD. MISSION IS PLEASED WITH AIFLD ADAPTATION TO NEW APPROACH IMPOSED BY DRAMATICALLY CHANGED CONDITIONS.

3. IF EXISTING CONDITIONS PREVAIL AT TIME OF MISSION REVIEW, WHICH NOW APPEARS HIGHLY PROBABLE, PRIOR MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS CALLING FOR INITIATION OF REGIONAL PROGRAM WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCARDED. MISSION HOWEVER REMAINS CONVINCED THAT A US LABOR PRESENCE AND LABOR PROGRAMS WITHIN MARGIN OF SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED POSSIBILITIES IMPOSED BY NEW CONDITIONS, WILL CONTINUE TO BE ESSENTIAL TO USG OBJECTIVES AND INTERESTS IN LABOR SECTOR. PENDING MISSION REVIEW THREE OR FOUR MONTHS HENCE, MISSION IS THEREFORE SUBMITTING FOR DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION AND STUDY AN ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM PROPOSAL FOR ASSURING US LABOR PRESENCE BEYOND 31 DEC 73. DURING INTERIM SUSPENSION PERIOD AIFLD/A WILL CONTINUE TO FUNCTION ALONG LINES OUTLINED PARA 2 ABOVE AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT.

4. ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL IS BASED ON (A) CONSIDERABLY REDUCED AIFLD PRESENCE TO ASSURE LOW-KEY PROGRAM; (B) INCREASED SUPPORT FOR ITS ACTIVITIES WITH EMPHASIS PLACED ON PROGRAMS OF REGIONAL CHARACTER; (C) UTILIZATION OF EXPERTISE OF REMAINING AIFLD/A LOCAL STAFF; AND (D) BEEFING UP EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE'S FUNCTION, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS OF TRAVEL GRANTS, STAG PROGRAM AND LABOR INFORMATION:

PART (A): TO ACHIEVE REDUCED AND LOW-KEY US LABOR PRESENCE UNDER THIS PROPOSAL, MISSION WOULD RECOMMEND CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO UTILIZATION BASIC ASPECTS OF PRESENT AIFLD/CHILE OPERATION. EDUCATION PROGRAMS DIRECTLY SPONSORED BY AIFLD WOULD BE ELIMINATED. ONE US AIFLD REPRESENTATIVE WITH LOCAL SECRETARY WOULD PROVIDE SUPPORT ASSISTANCE FOR ITS-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES BY ARRANGING THIRD-COUNTRY PARTICIPATION IN ITS SEMINARS IN ARGENTINA AND PROVIDING TRAVEL GRANTS TO ARGENTINES FOR US AND THIRD-COUNTRY ITS AND ORIT CONFERENCES. AIFLD REPRESENTATIVE WOULD ALSO FACILITATE TRAVEL GRANTS FOR ARGENTINE PARTICIPATION IN AIFLD-SPONSORED PROGRAMS IN US WHEN FEASIBLE AND MAINTAIN CONTACTS TO EXTENT POSSIBLE WITH ARGENTINE TRADE UNION LEADERS IN EXERCISING ROLE OF US LABOR REPRESENTATIVE;

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PART (B): UNDER THIS NEW PROPOSAL IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO TRADE SECRETARIATS THROUGH AIFLD/W EARMARKED FOR ITS SEMINARS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES IN ARGENTINA; INCLUDING TWO-WAY FLOW OF ARGENTINE AND THIRD-COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES OF ITS AFFILIATED UNIONS. TRAVEL GRANTS FOR US AND THIRD-COUNTRY PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY AIFLD ARGENTINE REPRESENTATIVE AND/OR LABOR ATTACHE, DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES, WOULD AUGMENT

ITS ACTIVITIES. BOOKS AND MATERIAL WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO SECRETARIAT FROM EMBASSY LABOR INFORMATION PROGRAM PROPOSED HEREIN;

PART (C): CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO UTILIZATION OF AIFLD/A STAFF MEMBERS BY PLACING THEM DIRECTLY WITH TRADE SECRETARIATS OPERATING IN ARGENTINA. THIS COULD BE FINANCED WITH ADDITIONAL FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR ITS ACTIVITIES SUGGESTED ABOVE.

PART (D): POSSIBILITY OF EMPLOYING A PRESENT MEMBER OF AIFLD/A STAFF AS LOCAL ASSISTANT TO LABOR ATTACHE TO FACILITATE IMPLEMENTA-

TION OF EXPENDED EMBASSY SPONSORED LABOR ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE STUDIED. THESE ACTIVITIES WOULD CONSIST PRIMARILY OF DEVELOPING A UNION-TO-UNION LABOR LEADER EXCHANGE PROGRAM ALONG LINES OF PRESENT LEADER GRANT PROGRAMS, PROGRAMMING INCREASED NUMBER OF US LABOR LEADERS TO ARGENTINA UNDER STAG PROGRAM AND DEVISING AND ADMINISTERING A LABOR INFORMATION PROGRAM SPECIFICALLY GEARED TO ITS-AIFLD SUPPORT REQUISITES BUT WHICH WOULD ALSO MEET NORMAL EMBASSY NEEDS IN INFORMATION FIELD.

5. IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO SUGGEST ON OTHER THAN CONTINGENCY BASIS BUDGET REQUIREMENTS AND MEANS OF FINANCING THIS ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL UNTIL SUCH TIME AS PROJECTED MISSION REVIEW OF POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN LABOR SECTOR IS PERFORMED. AT PRESENT TIME, FOR EXAMPLE, THE NUMBER OF ARGENTINE LABOR LEADERS WILLING TO ACCEPT TRAVEL GRANTS WOULD BE LIMITED WHETHER OF ITS, AIFLD OR EMBASSY ORIGIN. LABATT DOHERTY WILL BE IN WASHINGTON ON JULY 31 AND AVAILABLE FOR CONSULATION IF DEPARTMENT SO DESIRES.
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